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# UAVOS, KACST Improve Saudi MALE UAS

[Graham Warwick](#) March 05, 2020



Saker-1

Credit: UAVOS

R&D company UAVOS has revealed an improved version of Saudi Arabia's Saker-1 medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) unmanned aircraft system (UAS) developed with King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST).

KACST unveiled the Predator-class Saker-1 in 2017. UAVOS says the -1B version is a result of 10 years of R&D work with KACST on flight control systems. The partners have also jointly developed an unmanned version of the Robinson R22 light helicopter.

Capable of flying for 19 hr. at altitudes up to 16,500 ft., the Saker-1B has completed 1,000 hr. of flight tests, UAVOS says, including more than 500 hr. of day/night mission flying and heavyweight landing tests at the maximum takeoff weight of 2,500 lb.

Several different surveillance payloads have been tested to demonstrate readiness for operation, the company says. Capable of fully autonomous operation, the UAS uses a direct radio link for command and control within line of sight, switching to satellite communications beyond line of sight.

Designed to operate in a harsh desert environment, the Saker-1B is equipped for automatic takeoff and landing, has redundant avionics and UAVOS says its autopilot design provides data security and resistance to jamming.



## Graham Warwick

Graham leads Aviation Week's coverage of technology, focusing on engineering and technology across the aerospace industry, with a special focus on identifying technologies of strategic importance to aviation, aerospace and defense.



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